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SENATE BILL 2445

By Miller J

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 36, Chapter 1, Part 1; Title 37, Chapter 2, Part 4, and Title 68, Chapter 11, Part 2, relative to baby abandonment.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 68-11-255(c), is amended by deleting the following language:

whenever possible shall seek the identity of the mother, infant or the father of the infant. The facility shall also inform the mother that she is not required to respond, but that such information will facilitate the adoption of the child.

and substituting therefor the following:

shall positively identify the person abandoning the child by reviewing and recording the person's driver license and social security numbers. If it is not possible to positively identify the person abandoning the child, the police shall be immediately called to detain the person and assist in obtaining the information until such identification is made.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 36-1-142(c), is amended by deleting that subsection in its entirety, and substituting therefor the following:

The procedure for surrendering a child and terminating parental rights shall be followed as provided in §36-6-111, §36-6-113, and §36-6-117, until the person abandoning the child has been positively identified.

SECTION 3. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 36-1-142, is amended by deleting subsections (d), (e)(2) and (3), in their entirety.

SECTION 4. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 36-1-102(1)(A)(v), is amended by deleting all of the language following the language "pursuant to §68-11-255" and substituting therefor the language, ", and the provisions of §36-1-142 have been met."

SECTION 5. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 37-2-402(10)(A)(v), is amended by deleting all of the language following the language "pursuant to §68-11-255" and substituting therefor the language, "and the provisions of §36-1-142 have been met."

SECTION 6. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.